

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-21 stand rejected. Claims 1, 6, and 15 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings filed April 28, 2006.

SPECIFICATION

A new Abstract is being submitted, per the Examiner's request.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner's attention is directed to Claims 1 and 15 which have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofschneider (U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,421) in view of Mason (U.S. Pat. No. 4,650,208), in view of Brilmyer (U.S. Pat. No. 5,580,201). Claim 21 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Hofschneider in view of Mason, in view of Brilmyer, and in further view of Reichelt (U.S. Pat. No. 6,113,299). In view of the amendments and comments herein, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claims 1 and 15. These claims have been amended to clarify that the pair of longitudinal channels formed in the threaded portion of the fastener define a generally flat bearing surface and a curved surface. Support for this amendment can be found at least in Figure 7 of the application as filed. In rejecting Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofschneider in view of Mason, the Office Action states it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Hofschneider in view of the teachings of Mason to incorporate one or more slot cams to facilitate alignment. Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization.

While Applicant acknowledges that the Mason reference teaches the use of an arcuate slot (38) on an indexable caster adjusting plate (28). Applicant respectfully submits that the plate shown in the Mason reference is not coupled to the bolt (26) to prevent relative rotation there between. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to column 2, lines 54-64, which show that the indexable caster adjusting plate is moveable relative to the bolt (26). As Claim 1 contains the limitation that the

rotational position of the cam plates is fixed with respect to each other, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the references to form the claimed invention.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 6, The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to Claim 6 which has been amended to include the limitation that the channels define an interface which is configured to withstand at least 150 N-m of torque. Applicant asserts that it is not necessarily obvious to one skilled in the art that a threaded fastener with two channels would meet the torque requirements of 150 N-m, particularly with knurling. As Applicant describes in the background of the invention, the prior art teaches coupling plates to shafts using a D-shaped notch to cut into the bolt surface, corresponding with a D-shaped hole in the plate. Applicant's claims relate to solving issues concerning assembly strength in relation to the size and weight of these materials.


The Examiner's attention is further directed to independent Claim 15 which has been amended to include the limitations that both the first and second cam plates each have an arcuate slot configured to mate with the component of the suspension. Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references disclose a threaded fastener defining a pair of longitudinal channels defining a generally flat bearing surface and a concave curve portion which is used to couple first and second cam plates having a pair of arcuate slots configured to mate with a component of suspension system. In view of the amendments and arguments described above, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the presently outstanding rejections have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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